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# DEVELOPMENT OF THE FISHING INDUSTRY IN BURYAT-MONGOL ASSR

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Many rivers and lakes in Buryat-Mongol ASSR are valuable fishing waters. Kabinskiy Rayon, which includes the rich fish resources of the Selenga River delta, has the largest fish catches.

Whitefish (Coregonus migratorius) catches in the Baykal' rayons, excluding the Maloye Sea, are distributed as follows (in percent): Kabanskiy, 52.8; Severo-Baykal'skiy, 23.2; Pribaykal'skiy, 14.0; and Barguzinskiy, 10.0.

About 40 varieties of fish are found in Buryat-Mongol ASSR. During 1938-1947, the fish catch was broken down as follows (in percent):

| | |
|---|---|
| Whitefish | 48.5 |
| Siberian roach (soroga) | 31.1 |
| Perch | 10.4 |
| Carp | 2.4 |
| Pike | 2.3 |
| Grayling | 1.3 |
| Ide | 1.0 |
| Burbot | 0.8 |
| Whitefish (sig) | 0.8 |
| Dace | 0.3 |
| European whitefish (Coregonus Albulis) | 0.2 |
| Sturgeon, grayling, goby, and others | 0.9 |
| Total | 100.0 |

Whitefish, Siberian roach, and perch constitute 90 percent of the catch. The catching of grayling, burbot, whitefish, and goby is poorly and haphazardly organized. During the war (1941-45), fish catches were 75 percent higher than in the prewar period.





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In eastern Siberia and the Transbaykal region, under-ice fishing lasts 6 months, from November through April, and constitutes as much as 40-50 percent of the year's catch. Nearly 90 percent of the under-ice fish catch is chastik.

In June, when whitefish catching begins in Baykal, chastik catches decrease considerably. June and July provide over 30 percent of the year's catch. In August and September, whitefish catching is prohibited in some areas, and consequently the yield is decreased. In October and November, the catch consists of whitefish, which have already spawned, and chastik caught under the ice.

Fish catch is as much as 100 kilograms per hectare in various seas in some years.

Various fish-catching organizations participate as follows (in percent):

| | 1947 | 1948 |
|---|---|---|
| Government fishing | 24.7 | 27.8 |
| Fish catching kolkozes | 40.1 | 33.0 |
| Agricultural kolkhozes | 13.9 | 12.2 |
| Processing | 21.3 | 27.0 |

Fish catching in Buryat-Mongol ASSR is very poorly organized. During World War II, deep-sea fishing was begun in Lake Baykal, but soon afterward the use of purse seines, trawling, etc., was discontinued. Fishermen are continuing to utilize the same fishing areas located near the shore as they have done for many years.

The fishing industry on Lake Baykal and other lakes should be reorganized by motorizing the commercial fleet for all types of fishing, including net and seine, to increase the fleet's maneuverability.

To fulfill plans for catching fish, two more motorized fishing stations should be built on Lake Baykal. Airplanes should be used for propagating fish in the lake.

The propagation of fish resources should be studied carefully. At present, only whitefish is artificially propagated in Lake Baykal. From 1934 to 1948, the lake was stocked with more than 1,500,000 whitefish fry. On such rivers as the Selenga, Verkhnaya Angara, and Kichera where spawning occurs, whitefish reproduction proceeds by natural means. Catchesin tributaries of these rivers fluctuate sharply, while in the northern Baykal and Chivyrkuyskiy Bay areas, whitefish resources have decreased considerably. For this reason, pisciculture plants must be built on the rivers of northern Baykal, in Chivyrkuyskiy Bay, and on the Maloye Sea.

One method of increasing fish resources is acclimatization. To acclimatize Amur carp in the Posol'skiy Salt Lake, 1,400 carp were deposited in the lake in 1944-1945. In the years immediately following, carp became thoroughly acclimatized to Lake Baykal conditions and began to spread out into the Selenga River delta and the Posol'skiy Salt Lake. Amur carp should be propagated further, and kolkhoz pisciculture organized in southern Buryat-Mongol ASSR and Irkutsk Oblast.

To utilize all the plankton found in Lake Baykal, the lake must be stocked with suitable varieties of fish. Furthermore, Angara or Yenisey sterlet should be introduced into the Selenga River.

By observing fishing laws, protecting spawning grounds and young fish, utilizing new areas, and conducting remedial measures and large-scale artificial fish breeding, the annual commerical fish catch in Buryat-Mongol ASSR can be increased 1½ times during the next few years.

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